

LadyLike

Issue No. 3

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Adults Only

PHOTO FEATURE *The Porchester Ball!*

A MORE GLAMOROUS
YOU *Fashion Tips*
LADYLIKE PROFILE
Two For The Price Of One!



Phaedra

GIRL TALK
Fashion & Beauty Advice
MIRROR MIRROR
Readers Share Photos!
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CATALOGUE SHOPPING
The Do's and Don'ts Of Buying By Mail!



Lucille

I so often hear from TV sisters about how they went out somewhere and "passed". They are so excited that they were able to be out in public and be themselves that I just don't have the heart to tell them the truth. The truth is that very, very few TVs are able to pass. What is happening is that the girls are confusing social tolerance or indifference with being accepted as a female. More often than not, John Q. and Jane Q. Public are too wrapped up in their own worlds to notice us as we "pass" by them. If we have done a good job of makeup and our clothing is appropriate for the time and season, they will assume that we are what we appear to be; women. That, however, is not passing as a female. One slip is all it takes to jar the attention of the casual observer into the realization that something is amiss, and that you ain't a miss.

At the risk of creating unnecessary labels, one can postulate a series of stages which, with a great deal of practice, can lead to passing. The first stage is one which I just described, being casually mistaken as a female. The next stage is when your appearance can withstand close scrutiny, say from within two feet of another person. The third stage is more difficult, but obtainable for many, and that is a brief conversation. If you can reach stage three you're doing great and you probably are one of those people who really can "pass". The next obvious stage is to be able to engage in prolonged conversation and not have your listener "read" you. The last and ultimate stage occurs when you are accepted for a female regardless of your mode of dress.

Now think about this. It takes most transsexuals about two years of living full time as a woman to develop their new personas. They spend 24 hours a day working on their movements, actions, speech patterns, etc., so that they will be able to live and work within our society and be accepted as a female. Isn't it a little presumptuous to assume that a TV who gets out in public once or twice a year, or even once or twice a month, is passing? I have had sisters recount to me their exploits in shopping malls or downtown areas and I tell you they would not fool my three year old niece into thinking they were women.

So what happens? They delude themselves into believing that they can now go anywhere, anytime when crossdressed. And, the next time they get "read", they're crushed.

The goal that both TVs and TSs should be working toward is one of self-confidence and internal validation. I have heard stories about TVs who "look down" upon those who do not appear totally feminine and I have heard stories about TSs who have committed suicide because they could not make the grade as a woman. In both cases these people are overlooking the more important aspect of self worth. Your value as a human being is intrinsic and not in any way related to whether or not you can pass.

Being the best you can be is a laudable goal in any endeavor, but "passing" should not be the end all of your existence. The question to ask is, "Can I pass for a Human Being?" When the answer is "YES", then be proud of yourself!

JoAnn Roberts

LadyLike

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LUCILLE SPENCER ...photos this page by Mariette Allen

PROFILE

NAME: Lucille Diana Spencer

AGE: Not a very ladylike question! 40+

PROFESSION: Architectural Designer

RESIDENCE: New York City

BIRTH PLACE: New York City

BIRTH SIGN: Cancer

HEIGHT: 5' 10"

WEIGHT: 170#

MEASUREMENTS: 37-28-37

DRESS SIZE: 14

SHOE SIZE: 12

FAVORITE PERFUME: Giorgio

FAVORITE MOVIE: Gone With The Wind

FAVORITE MUSIC: Slow, sensuous dance music

FASHION STYLES: Classic, body conscious, a little dramatic and fun

FAVORITE PLACE: In the sun

FAVORITE HOBBIES: Skiing, golf, Lucille, but not necessarily in that order



Grrreat Tiger Dress - photo by Mariette Allen

LadyLike: Like many of us, you recall memories from a very early age about wanting to be like the girls. Tell us about one of those memories.

Lucille Spencer: My earliest memory concerning gender was in kindergarten. I was about 5 years old, but had no clear gender identification. I was sort of dreamy prior to puberty and simply decided that girls were more interesting than boys. They were prettier - prettier hair, clothes and seemed to have more fun, screaming and laughing with their bell-like voices. I was captivated.

It never occurred to me that one's gender was determined by one's sex. The class was being divided up for a game. Boys had to bow and go

to one side of the room and the girls had to curtsey and go to the other. I liked their team better, so when my turn came, of course, I curtseyed. I had no idea why everybody was laughing hysterically.

It was my first lesson in gender. The way your parents made you, and more important, dressed you - determined what you were and what you were to do. Most importantly, you weren't allowed to change. I guess we showed 'em though.

LL: You are married and have children. Do they know about Lucille?

LS: I am married and have been for twenty years. I have children and we're a great happy family, but nobody knows about Lucille. If I didn't have several wonderful friends, it would



A smashing leather mini dress- photo by M. Allen

be very lonely as Lucille.

LL: What were the reasons you decided not to tell all?

LS: The reasons I don't share Lucille with my family could fill a book, but I'll try to be brief. Basically, when I married there was no TV network or community. I didn't know one could be a TV and not be struck by lightning, because I didn't know any others. Lucille was generally repressed until about 5 years ago.

If I were starting over to build a life I would seek acceptance, although I think it's hard to come by. My wife had no such choice and Lucille was not a part of our "agreement". I've sent up test balloons and probes and the best I came out with was massive disinterest in the subject. I am one that honors commitments.

Everybody is perfectly happy the way things are, including myself *most* of the time. I know that, at best, I can't improve things and will no doubt louse everything up if I revealed Lucille to them. I always think of the spouse who commits

an infidelity and is consumed by guilt. They can't carry the guilt and so share it with the non-guilty spouse, making them carry part of that burden that wasn't theirs in the first place. I don't feel guilty about Lucille, but I see no purpose in having Lucille make everybody else miserable.

I've been noticing a lot of writing lately about wives who don't love the notion of an "other" woman in their lives, especially when they were looking for a man. I am not usually into advice or opinion, but I think that any of us who is married and is not brutally realistic about the comments above is an ostrich, very, very selfish and self centered.

LL: Yes, quite often the real problem between a TV and his spouse is his selfishness. You told me that you are serious, but don't take yourself seriously. Care to explain that to our readers?

LS: I am very serious about Lucille being the very best she can be in all of her endeavors. I am achievement oriented and it carries over. I spend



Kiss me you fool! It's only mistletoe - photo by George B.

the time and effort to be the prettiest I can be, be nicely dressed, be the most feminine, etc., etc. At the same time I realize that I am endeavoring to create a perfect illusion, not reality. It's great fun, but only one part of a multi-faceted life. Lucille is my wonderful fantasy, but not to be taken seriously.

One of the problems that I have is that in my other life I have many good times and some bad times. Lucille only has good times. It's hard to keep a sense of proportion about this unless you realize that if I remained Lucille, I would then have at least as many bad times (probably more) as I did before. So I don't take myself and my fantasies too seriously.

LL: Let's talk about something more interesting. Where did you get that wild tiger stripe dress and do you go out shopping dressed?

LS: I love my tiger dress. Like all these fun clothes, it makes me feel like I look. I'm friendly with JoLynne White who helped me, and so



A little more casual look for the holidays- photo by George B.

many other TVs, get my act together. I told her that for once, instead of fitting myself into something that wasn't quite right, I wanted to have something that was made for me. She offered to have the dress made for me. I picked the style; JoLynne wouldn't choose a neckline that low. She found this lycra fabric and it was love at first sight. I'm thrilled with the result and it's the best way to do it if you can. I don't go shopping dressed; the logistics for me are enormous.

LL: How do you maintain that great figure?

LS: My figure comes from the constant diet every girl is on, genetic luck and a great corset. I wasn't a stranger to corsets as my mother wore them and I tried them as a little girl. They are very effective. When I first "came out", I got my first real corset from Muriel Olive over at *Femme Fashions*. What happens in the TV fantasy books came true for me. When my waist went in, these cute little breasts and hips popped out. While it isn't noticeable in my other life, my lower torso has a distinctly feminine look. I now have four



Very business-like in a tres chic suit-photo by M.Allen

corsets and I love them for the way they make me look. For a long evening with lots of movement, I'd rather have the 37-28-37 be natural, but I'll take what I can get.

LL: You've obviously had to keep a balance between your male and female sides. If you could, would you give Lucille full reign for an extended period of time and why?

LS: I'd love to be Lucille full-time for an extended period. Notwithstanding anything I've said before, it would be the most fun. For my serious side, as an achiever, it would be like going to golf or tennis camp. The grand finale would be some kind of great ball where I know I would pass and could show myself off.

I definitely wouldn't be a "working girl". I'd have to do it as independently wealthy or at least a suburban housewife. That way I could pamper myself as never before and I'd have everything done I can't do now: plucked eyebrows, acrylic nails, dyed eyelashes, all of it. At the end of the



Another vaccum cleaner shot? - photo by George B.

Ball, it would be interesting to see if I could take off my beautiful gown-at least to get into my pumpkin-to take me back to reality.

I guess the basic 'why' would be to see what I could really achieve and how far I was really capable of going in feminization

LL: What is the funniest (or best, or greatest) thing that has ever happened to Lucille?

LS: Actually, there are two things that come to mind as really special. It's not easy since I've been really lucky, so far, in meeting only nice people and having lots of fun. I'M friends with a wonderful couple in another city and had the opportunity to spend a combination birthday, Christmas and New Years celebration with them. It was the first time my fantasy met reality. We exchanged little gifts and I really felt like a part of life. The most amazing thing was Lucille's first time "out".

I met this other girl and we decided to go to a Lee Brewster party. It was the first time either of us had met another TV and we were petrified. As



Very fashionable, stripes and polka dots - photo by M. Allen



First she goes soft - photo by George B.

I said, I am adventurous, but this was uninhibited paranoia. We took a motel room 25 miles outside the city so we wouldn't have to walk through a lobby. We rented a car so we couldn't be "traced" by our own cars. We bought tokens so we wouldn't have to go through a toll booth with a person in it at the tunnel. After getting ourselves together, going through all that nonsense and driving for an hour, we were in New York city and hysterical. Everywhere in the world it was dark. In Manhattan the streets were ablaze with lights. Enjoying the daylit streets were, what seemed to us, throngs of people. We had to walk one block from our parking space and had to pass by one guy who was just 'hanging out'.

My friend admonished me that the most important thing was *not* to make eye contact with anybody. We started out. I couldn't resist. I peeked out under my lashes and our eyes met. I didn't mean to, but the devil made me smile. I got a big one back and I floated the rest of the way.

Every TV must attend at least one such func-

tion. More than having just a great time, I realized I was "home". I wasn't the only one and I was allowed to be me. I met a GG (genetic girl) who told me I looked like a showgirl and some guys who came on to me wanting dates. What an ego trip.

I got the giggles with one guy. I found myself comparing his style to that of my male self. It was funny. I also wasn't used to being 6'1" in heels with a guy 5'10". Anyway, I loved it.

LL: Thanks for talking with LadyLike. Is there any last message you'd like to give our readers?

LS: I'd like to paraphrase your editorial in this issue and expand the definition of "passing" as "being". It's possible to accept and understand "passing" as a state of mind. If you can accept yourself and not lose sight of who and where you are, it becomes possible to enjoy yourself without abusing either yourself or those around you. Then it can really be fun doing what you want!



The she goes wild - photo by George B.

Girl Talk



Girl Talk is your forum. Any question on any topic is fair game from makeup secrets to the psychology of gender transpositions. If you have a question for JoAnn, write to her care of this magazine

Dear JoAnn,

I've told my fiancé about my crossdressing and she seems to be handling it OK, but she is concerned that it will become more progressive, that I will become a transsexual or that I might be gay. What should I tell her? Cynthia, OK.

Dear Cynthia, Your fiancé has some reasonable concerns for someone who is not aware of what it means to be a TV. I can put her mind at ease somewhat. TVs (crossdressers) do not turn into transsexuals. Some TSs start out believing

they are TVs, but the reverse is not usual. Sexual preference (hetero, homo) has nothing to do with ones gender identity. Just as there are hetero- and homosexual non-crossdressers, there are hetero- and homosexual TVs and TSs. Your preference for a sex partner is unlikely to change with more frequent crossdressing. Now comes the "iffy" part. What does "progressive" mean? My experience is this. When given the freedom to dress whenever you want, there is an initial period when you will do it everyday, if possible. After awhile though you will slow down to a frequency that suits your personality, whatever that might be. I know TVs that dress every week, and some that dress once a month. It is different for everyone. You won't know till you try it.

Dear JoAnn,

I am a TS. When I was in my denial stage I did a stupid thing and got a tattoo. Now I want to have it removed. What is the best way? Karen, NY

Dear Karen,

Many of your sisters have done the same thing. It is not a simple procedure to remove a tattoo and it must be done carefully so as to not leave a scar. The most recent technique is laser surgery. Simply put, the laser is used to give you a controlled burn. After the skin scabs over and the scab falls off, the dye from the tattoo goes with it. The only other effective method is a skin graft from another part of your body to the tattoo area. In either case, you will need to consult with a dermatologist and possibly a plastic surgeon. The average cost of laser surgery is between \$150 to \$300 per square inch.

Dear JoAnn,

I want to wear an off-the-shoulder dress to a special party but I have these zits on my back. What can I do? Cherrie, AZ

Dear Cherrie,

Heredity, stress, hormones and perspiration are all potential causes of acne. To help fight off these breakouts cleanse the skin with a mild soap, followed by an astringent to absorb excess oil. Oil feeds the bacteria that cause pimples. Use an acne control agent with benzoylperoxide (e.g. Oxy10) and consider a visit to a dermatologist. Acne in middle age can be quite distressing and may need to be treated medically.

Dear JoAnn,

I have all these great cosmetics and sometimes use eyeshadows on my lips. Can I use lipstick or blush on my eyes? Teri, PA.

Dear Teri,

No, no, no! Cosmetics for the eyes have special formulations that are approved by the FDA. Lipcolors and blusher do not contain these ingredients and may cause severe irritation, swelling, redness and even an infection. Use your makeup creatively but safely. Also, remember to discard eyeliner and mascara that are over 6 months old. Its cheap insurance.

Dear JoAnn,

What am I doing wrong? My mascara always smudges and end up looking like a raccoon! Candi, CA.

Dear Candi,

Try this. Max Factor steps in again with the latest of cosmetic technology and has created NO COLOR mascara. This clear gel does all the stuff that regular mascara does, lengthens, darkens, defines, and curls, but no little bits and flakes, nor sticky, clumpy goo. If you'd rather skip the mascara altogether, then consider eye-

lash tinting. Any salon can do it in 20 minutes for about \$15-\$25. This is a good idea if you are a contact lens wearer. And, if you are a TS, I've heard about tattooing eyeliner and even lips so that you don't have to use makeup. There is controversy over this practice because Tattoo Parlors can do the job. If you are interested, try to find a cosmetic surgeon who will do it for you.

Dear JoAnn,

My teeth are not white at all. I've tried every kind of toothpaste and polish I can find. Any Suggestions? Kellye, MN.

Dear Kellye,

Nothing is prettier, nor more disarming, on a woman than a great smile. And smile is something women do much more than men. My dentist has recommended some available cosmetic dental techniques to improve a smile. Bonding of plastic resins to the tooth enamel can reshape and whiten teeth. Porcelain veneers that also are bonded to teeth last longer than the plastic but are also more expensive; both will require re-bonding eventually. Bleaching teeth can be done easily, but it takes several sessions and touch-ups will be required several times a year. It can get expensive. But then who said it was easy being beautiful?

Dear JoAnn,

I really wanted to attend the "Night of a Thousand Gowns" gala in New York City but I didn't have a suitable evening gown and I really can't afford to buy one. Phyllis, PA.

Dear Phyllis,

If you ask around the local TV/TS community you can usually find a seamstress that will make a gown for you. There are a few in your city and several in New York. There is another alternative, however. Rent a gown. Formal rental shops for women are starting to spring up all over the country. A \$500 dress can be rented for one night

at around \$50 - \$75. Look for Dress Rehearsal in Dallas, TX; BOTNES in Boston, MA; One Night Stand in New York; and The Formal Affair in Orange, CA. Check the local Yellow Pages in other cities.

Dear JoAnn,

I've been dieting and exercising for over a year now and I can't seem to lose that last 10 pounds. Will liposuction help? Kay, CA.

Dear Kay,

No way! Liposuction is not a method of weight loss. It is used to contour and reshape the body and is not without risks, like infection or a change in skin color. Better you should rev up your exercise regimen a little to help consume those last 30,000 calories. Keep your diet low-fat and high in complex carbohydrates. Good luck.

Dear JoAnn,

No matter what I try, my lipstick always seems to smear, wear off and bleed. Can you give me some hints? Charlene, TX.

Dear Charlene,

The trick to have lip color with staying power is powder. First outline your lips with a lip liner pencil. The extra wax in the pencil prevents the color from bleeding. Use a neutral color if you don't like the outline effect. Then, apply the first color coat. Dust this with loose powder and blot. Apply a second color coat and blot again. This should do it. If you don't like the cakey feeling that results from this try a new product from Princess Borghese, *Lipcolour Superlativo*. This is a lip powder and comes in compact form, much like their blushers. My Borghese source tells me that this new product won't smear or bleed or come off on a cup or glass. As with most top line cosmetics, it is not cheap, about \$15.

Dear JoAnn,

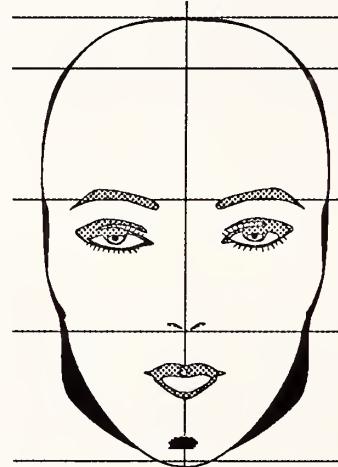
My face is very square with a strong chin.

What can I do to make it look more Lady-like? Ann, WY

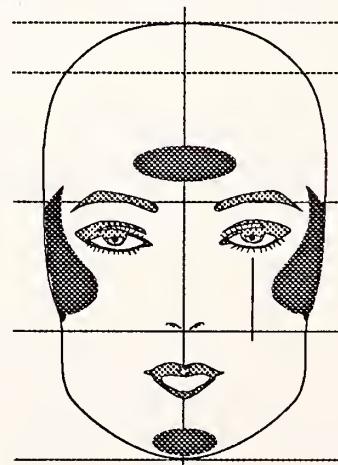
Dear Ann,

You could go to the extreme of having an oral surgeon reshape your jaw or you can take a more reasonable approach and create the illusion of the perfect oval face by contouring and highlighting. The illustrations show the correct contouring and blusher placement for your face shape. Practice at home before you venture out.

It takes a little skill and a lot of practice to get it right. The right hair style will also make a difference. You should wear loose curls at the neck with some height on top.



Correct Contouring for a Square Face



Correct Blush Application for a Square Face

Illustrations from "Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing", © 1988 JoAnn Roberts/CDS

Speaking of hair, Tiffany from Chicago writes:

"I would like to pass on a fashion tip, if I may, about wearing a wig. The wig should be worn off the face and your own hair should be curled over and into the wig to give you a natural hairline around the forehead and temples, so to accent your cheekbones. This will make the wig look like part of your natural hair. For those girls who wear a wig of a different color than their natural hair, there are many non-permanent hair color sprays and combs that can be used to match your hair to the wig color. Then wash it out at the end of the evening. I have used this technique several times and it works well.

Thanks Tiffany for sharing that with us.

Dear JoAnn,

When I dress I get very aroused then I feel guilty. Will it always be this way? C.C., MD.

Dear C.C.,

That depends on you dear. Almost all the TVs I know started out with erotic dressing. Some never get past it and some do. The thing to remember is that you can have control over your dressing activities. You can choose when to have an erotic episode and when to dress just for fun. In effect, you will be practicing two different kinds of crossdressing. It will help to de-eroticize your activities, if you can find a club or group that will put you into a purely social situation.

**Special Report for LadyLike
For The Big Beautiful Woman In You.**

Believe it or not, there are fashionable clothes available for the larger woman (and that means us, too). You just have to look a little longer and a little harder to find them. *Vogue* often produces a mini-magazine in their regular issues devoted to the "plus" woman. I am going to summarize the retailers and the lines from this for you. Most of the lines are extensions of well

known designer lines, so expect to pay higher prices. Better to buy one quality garment that will last a long time, than to buy two or three cheaper ones that will fall apart after one wearing.

Plus Size Retailers:

Woman's World, 1166 Fesler St, El Cajon, CA 92020, ask for a catalog.

Marianne Sandstrom, Stockbridge Rd., Great Barrington, MA, 01230, catalog.

Forgotten Woman; retail chain; check Yellow Pages.

Penningtons du Canada; retail chain; check Yellow Pages.

Fashion Bug Plus Shops; retail chain; check Yellow Pages.

Marianne Plus Shops, retail chain; check Yellow Pages.

Spiegel "For You" catalog, call 1-800-345-4500, ask for dept. 923, \$2, credit card OK

Extrovert, 498 7th Ave, New York, NY.

A Different Step, 2484 Broadway, near 92nd St., New York, NY.

Plus Size Lines to look for:

Ricky Smithline, sizes 14-24; Gitano Plus; Tori; C'est Simone, sizes 4-24; Claudia Cooper; Albert Nippon Dimensions; Judith & Company; AnnW; Gloria Vanderbilt Woman; Galleria International, sizes 12-26; and Judith Ann Plus.

***'Til next time,
Hugs, JoAnn***



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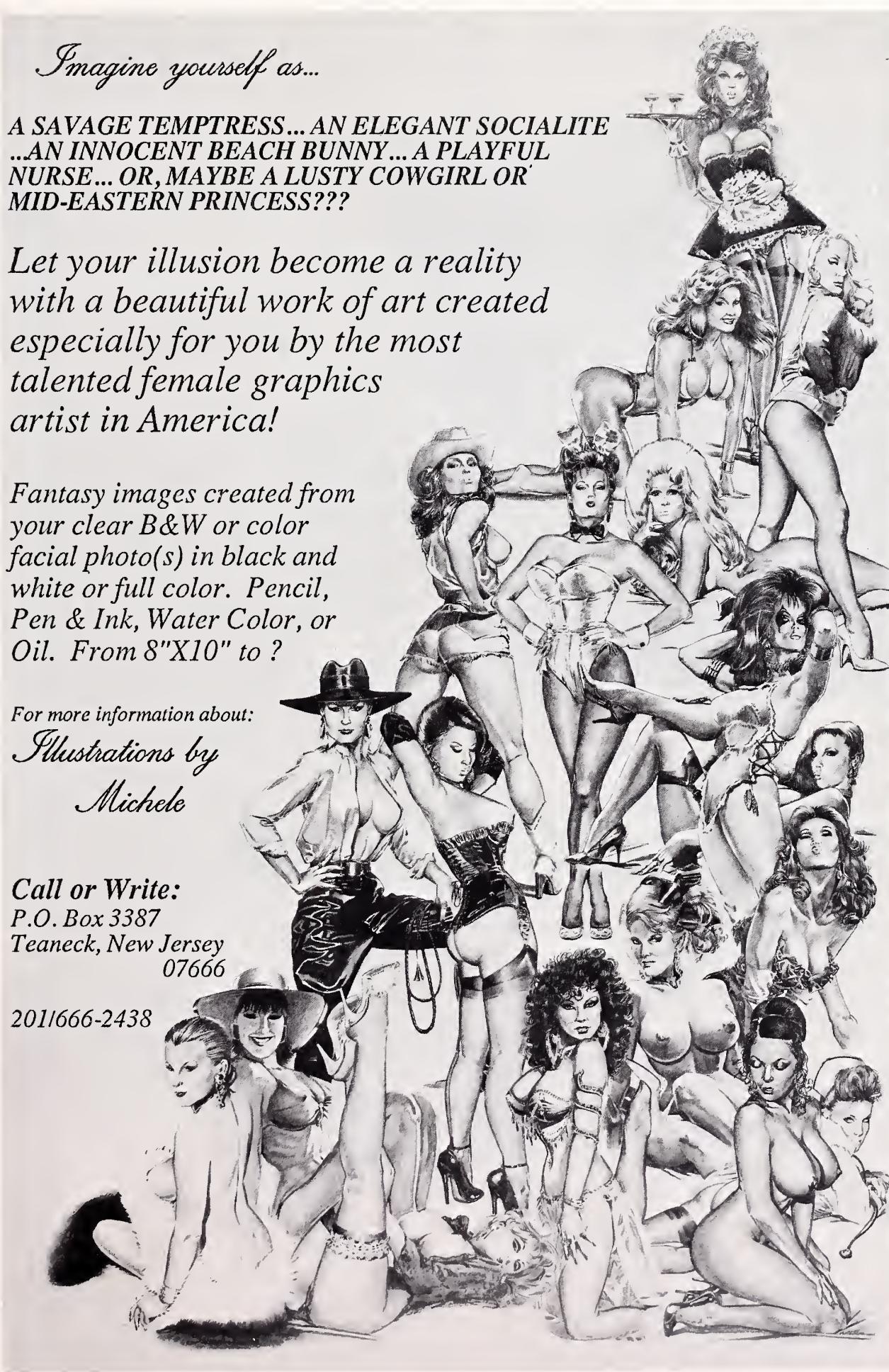
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Grace & Style



with J. L. White

In the last issue, we discussed some of the differences between the sexes with regard to comportment, looking specifically at walking, sitting, standing and gesturing. Now its time to delve more deeply into nonverbal sex differences which might help you in the improvement of your presentation while dressed in your feminine clothes. What are some more specific differences with regard to body movements? What about eye contact, touch and smiling?

As might be expected, men tend to show a greater intensity of movement than women; they move their limbs and trunk with more effort. They also tend to show a higher degree of restlessness which is demonstrated through more direct touching of the

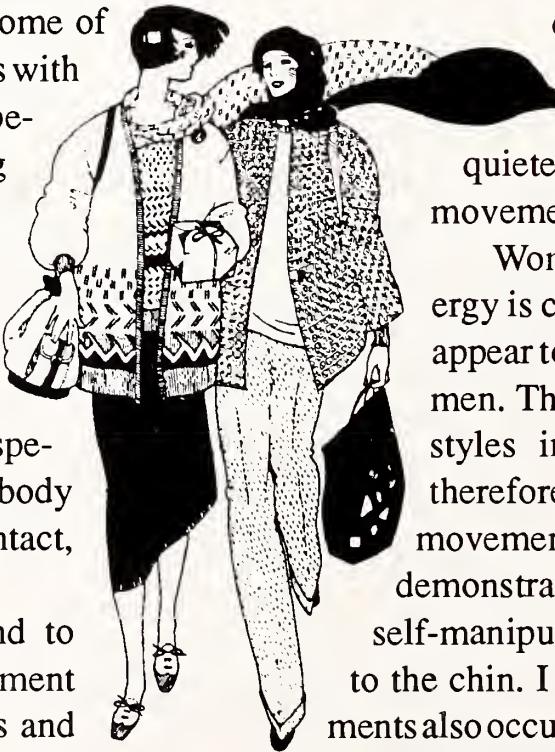
body (not including one's clothing or hair), increased movement of the lower limbs, such as foot gestures, leg shifts, and foot and leg movements. Women, on the other hand, tend to take up as little physical space as possible, avoiding being sloppy or overbearing in their physical movement. Their movements are smaller and more delicate.

So what does this mean to you? Next time you're dressed, whether it be alone or with others, think about these items and watch yourself for a while. Are you dressed in female attire, yet moving and gesturing more like a man? If so, you might want to think about your attitude. Are you thinking with the masculine part of your psyche? You know, that part of you that likes to move through life with power and force, controlling the world about you, thinking in calculated, rational, logical terms. The feminine part of you tends to be

more receptive and passive than this. She is the quieter, intuitive, non-rational part of our psyches that slows down and moves with quieter, shorter and more delicate movements.

Women's outlet for nervous energy is channeled in such a way, they appear to be more self-conscious than men. Their clothes, makeup and hair styles invite constant tending and therefore more self-touching hand movements. You can see this behavior demonstrated in the hands near the face, self-manipulation of the feet, and hands to the chin. I might also add these movements also occur because of the habits women develop over the years in working on their physical appearance.

Studies conducted during the 60's and 70's also



found sex differences regarding eye contact, touch and smiling. Women tend to give more eye contact when interacting with others, nodding their heads and smiling more than men. Women have been found to elicit more warmth and less anxiety from people they interact with than do men. We have been socialized from an early age to place greater emphasis on people and relationships than men who have been trained to focus more on things and activities. This is where attitude comes into play again. If you want to appear more feminine, you have to think and feel more feminine! I like to recommend a long, leisurely bubble bath as a prelude to dressing since it gives you the opportunity to wash away the masculine energy for awhile. This process is a wonderful way to pamper yourself. You get to relax, unwind and forget about the events of the day. It's your special time to take a few deep breaths and listen to that female voice within you. You'd be surprised at the difference in your presentation when you choose to slow down and get in touch with that feminine side of you. After all, you're not going through all the hassles involved with shopping, getting dressed and going out just to perpetuate your masculinity are you?

Body movements and attitudes have been studied in the context of appearing warm or cold toward people. So if you're all dolled up and out for the evening and no one comes up to talk to you, maybe you're giving off nonverbal signals that say, "Stay away". It's hard to approach, let alone relate, to someone who constantly looks around the room, slumps, drums fingers and does not smile. When you shift your posture so you're facing a person, smiling and giving direct eye contact, you're giving off warmth signals. Add to that some head nodding with the verbal reinforcer "mm'hmmm," and you will find people more willing to talk to you.



Since comportment deals with behaving in ways that are expected or normal, think about the clothes you're choosing to wear when dressed. Sure, we'd all love to look like the fashion model, but how many women do? As a single woman living in a large metropolitan area, I find I dress down when I'm out shopping and running errands. I don't want to bring any attention to myself so I wear clothes that show simplicity in design and color. I save the bold, splashy look for occasions when I'm with friends. Next time you're out, try to observe women through new eyes. What styles are they wearing? What accessories do they choose? Earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc? A woman can be stylish and elegant while wearing a simple and conservative style of clothing.

The world is full of role models for you. Take some time to start looking at women as role models. Longer, fuller skirts bring less attention than short, tight ones. With the exception of evening wear, most women do not wear four and five inch heels. Notice the heel size worn by the women in your area. What size purses do they carry? What fabrics and colors? How are they carrying the purses and bags? Once you begin training yourself to be more of an observer, you'll discover a wealth of information from those around you.

The next time you observe a woman who appears to be extremely feminine to you, try to notice, what is it specifically about her that makes you feel this way. How is she dressed? What are her accessories? How does she move? Does she communicate in a certain way that sets her apart? Try to remember these ideas and see if they don't make a difference.

If you have any ideas about improving your feminine image that you'd like to share with us, drop us a line so we can print it. Your community continues to grow and there are girls out there who would appreciate getting help.

Resources

LadyLike will try to keep an up-to-date listing of support groups and sympathetic businesses.
Please let us know of any additions or corrections

• **National Support Groups •**

International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778, \$40/yr membership includes a journal "The Tapestry".

The Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215. General CD information and a national newsletter. \$5/yr.

The Renaissance Education Association, Inc., TV/TS/SO, c/o JoAnn Roberts, Ph.D., Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, (215)-640-9449, \$30/yr full membership, \$12/yr associate.

Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Organization for Hetero-TVs only.

• **Regional Support Groups •**

• **New England Area •**

The connecticutView, c/o Denise Mason, Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460

Tiffany Club, TV/TS, Box 266, Allston, MA 02134, phone 617-358-2305.

The Twenty (XX) Club, TS support, Box 6070 Station "A", Hartford, CT 06106, (203)-522-2646.

• **New Jersey/New York •**

Sigma Nu Rho Tri-Ess, Box 467, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

TGIC, Box 13604, Albany, NY, 12212, (518)-436-4513.

TVA, Attn: Sheila, Box 26533, Rochester, NY 14626, (716)-723-1698

Chi Delta Mu., Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, (201)-663-0772.

New York Gender Alliance, c/o Fem Fashions, Penthouse B, 157 W. 57th St. NY, NY 10019, (212)-582-6823

Long Island Femme Expression (LIFE), Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416

Long Island Social Club, c/o K. Kwarta, 50 Sunny Rd., St. James, NY 11780

Butterfly Group, Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760, (607)-798-8033.

• **Mid-Atlantic Area •**
My Choice, Kathy Stevens, TS support, 1417 McHenry St., Baltimore, MD 21223, (301)-792-9639.

Renaissance, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, 215-640-9449

TransPitt, Box 59406, Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Delta Chi Chapter, (TV/TS), Sandy Machin, Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA, 22312

Butterfly Couples of NOVA, Cheryl Ann Costa, Box 3234, Manassas, VA 22110, 703-369-3925

Balto-DC GGA, c/o L. Beal, Box 3059 Falls Church, VA 22043

Norfolk TS Group, Donna Johnston, Box 1923 Norfolk, VA 23501

Adelphi Club, Roberta Lewis, Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004

• **Mid Western Area •**
Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Deanna Johns, Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60007, (312)-364-9514

Crossroads, (TV/TS), Box 1298, Flint, MI, 48501

City of Lakes Crossdressers Club, 3917 Frances Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55416, (612)-822-9726

St. Louis Gateway Femmes, Box 1262, St. Louis, MO 63188

Cross-Port, 2020 "B" Beechmont Ave., Box 150, Cincinnati, OH 45230

Paradise Club, (TV/TS), Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129

Chicago Gender Society, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657, (312)-231-8923.

Iota Chi Sigma, Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Wisconsin Network, Box 632, Waukesha, WI 53187, (414)-542-5735

Western Michigan I.M.E., Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

River City, Box 1305, Bellevue, NE 68005

• **South / Southwest •**
A Rose, Cindy Ann Mackenzie, Box 2943, Glendale, AZ 85301

Serenity, Nikki Bee, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022

Butternut Belles, Box 3585, Knoxville, TN 37917, 524-1629.

Boulton and Park Society, c/o D. Griffiths, Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280, (512)-691-8915, 8am-11pm.

• **Western Area •**
Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Omega Chapter Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

CHIC, Box 562, Duarte, CA 91010, (213)-456-6511.

Shangri-La Club, Nancy Watson, Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713

Neutral Corner, W. Thomas, Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109.

Educational TV Channel (ETVC), Box 6468, San Francisco, CA 94101

Rainbow Gender Association, Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association, Stephanie Modellman, 10424 Joel Ln., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Double Image, Box 71795, Las Vegas, NV 89170. c/o R. Lorie

Resources

Salmacis Society, Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440, phone 503-689-5267

Capitol City Chapter, Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302.

Northwest Gender Alliance, NWGA, Box 13173, Portland, OR 97213.

Emerald City, Box 31318 Seattle, WA, 98103.

Seattle Counselling Service, 1505 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98103, (206)-329-8737.

• Canadian •

Alberta Contact Club, Box 4667, Station C, Calgary, Alberta, T2T-5P1

Transvestites Au Montreal (TAM), Box 1, 164 Station H, Montreal, Que, H3G-2N1

• Overseas •

Scottish TV/TS group, c/o SHRG, 58a Broughton St., Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1-35A.

Chrysalis, c/o Pheadra Kelly, editor: Chrysalis, bi monthly, Box 2, 1 Banks Bldg., School Green Rd., Freshwater, Isle of Wight, UK, PO40-9AJ

• TV Boutiques & Businesses •

Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique, 400 W. 14th Street at 8th Ave. NY, NY, (212)-947-7773, clothing catalog is \$5.

Fem Fashions, Penthouse B., 157th St. NY, NY 10019, (212)-582-6823 catalog is \$10.

Dream Dresser, Loehmans Plaza, Pennsauken, NJ 08110 call (609)-488-6279.

Versatile Fashions, store: 1925 E. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, CA., mailorder: Box 1051, Tustin, CA. 92681. A full set of catalogs is \$15.

Fantasies In Lace, 3608 W. Broward Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL, (305)-581-2366.

NS Products (MirageBreast Forms),

Box 6678-R, Glendale, CA 91205, \$2 for brochure.

B&R Creations (Corsetry), Box 4201-L, Mt, View, CA 94040.

Fantasy Fashions, 22968 Victory Blvd., Suite 196, Woodland Hills, CA 91367, \$6 for catalog.

Lydia's TV Fashions, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Suite 2, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423, (818)-995-7195.

J.L.White, image improvement and development, NYC, (212)-675-0204.

• Recurring Events •

Paradise in the Poconos weekend, twice a year, May and September, in the Pennsylvania Poconos. Contact JoAnn Roberts, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, (215)-640-9449.

Fantasia Fair, once a year in October, in Provincetown, MA. Contact Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA., 02215.

"Be All You Can Be" Weekend, put on by, Paradise Club, CrossPort, Trans-Pitt and The Chi Chapter of Tri Ess. Contact any of the groups mentioned.

Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme", contact National Tri-Ess for details.

Tiffany Provincetown Outings, twice a year in Oct & June, contact the Tiffany Club, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

Texas 'T' Party, San Antonio, Texas, 3 day weekend "en femme", Feb 23-25, 1989, contact B&P Society, Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280, (512)-657-2540.

• How-To Books •

"Art and Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing", by JoAnn Roberts. Published by Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA., 19406. \$10 postpaid. Over 40 illustrations and tables on makeup, clothing, accessories, and lingerie.

"How To Be A Woman Though Male", by Virginia Prince. Published by Cheva-

lier Publications, Tulare, CA., 93275. \$10 plus postage & handling. This is the original "How To" for crossdressers. Very good advice on deportment and passing. Interesting section on living as a female fulltime. Some of the material is dated, since this was written over 15 years ago, but this is a "must have".

• Periodicals •

The Transvestian®. Contact Tania Volen, Inc., 200 Main St., Tennent, NJ., 07763. Subscription \$18/yr, published monthly. Tabloid style, many TV columns, running serials and lots of ads.

En Femme Magazine and En Femme Comics, *En Femme* Publishing, Box 7854, West Trenton, NJ 08628, bi-monthly magazine, \$5/issue, \$25/year, comics, \$5 per issue.

"Our Sorority", published by the Outreach Institute, Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA, 22312, Semi-annual, \$5/yr.

LadyLike, published by Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, \$8.50 single, \$24/yr.

TV/TS Tapestry, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778, \$10 single, \$40/yr.

• Computer BBS's •

GenderNet, Oakland, CA. 415-763-5173. Public board, free access and private board access by subscription.

Carolyn's Closet, Minneapolis, MN. 612-452-2676. Free access.

JSS, TV/TS Forum, Ocean County, NJ. 609-693-8849. Logon for access as follows. First name?: APRIL, Last name?: MAY, calling from America's Heartland?; YES, Enter password: FRIENDS (All caps). Access in 24hrs, under any name, you wish.

Please send a self-addressed and stamped, large, business envelope when writing to these groups. Many of them are on tight budgets and your kindness will be greatly appreciated.



London Grandeur: The Porchester Ball

by Phaedra Kelly

All photos courtesy of Phaedra Kelly &
Chrysalis Magazine.

The Porchester Hall is a massive Victorian structure which dominates a quarter of the lower side of the aptly named Queensway, in the heart of Bayswaters Embassy land. An area more famous for the violent siege that lead to the sniper killing of Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher. A few yards down the road, the Embassy where hostages were dramatically freed by the SAS using stun grenades as they dangled from the roof on ropes, to the balcony below. Around the corner lives my friend Odette Tchernine, a frail elderly spinster of whom you would never guess that she was a legend of Fleet Street newspaper world, poetess and author, fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and pioneer hunter of the Yeti and Sasquatch. In the streets outside walk the rich and famous, the obscure and eccentric, people of all races, creeds and colours. Artists display their work along four miles of park railings, and gays and Transgenderists of all callings walk free; here, is where comedians have said half in truth, that a young man of modest means can live like a Queen. Here is where a dashingly dark Arab may treat you like a lady in the evening, lay you like a racehorse all night and in the dawn, put four thousand pounds into your palm for taxi fare...nobody expects the recipient to leave a tip that big for the cabby.

It's little wonder that its a target also for bands of skinheads and muggers. But on certain nights, such lowlifes dive for cover, for as every skinheads learned, one angry Trannie fights like a one woman army...half a hundred or more, just riot!!

These are the nights of The Porchester Balls.

The Hall's exterior shows signs of modernization, but the Music Hall style of the inside remains quaintly Victorian. It is not the most plush and new, the vague scent of architectural decay lingers amid the perfumes and powders, but it has a well loved atmosphere to the imaginative: envision regal post apocalyptic sets like the ruined Casino in Kubrick's Clockwork Orange, or perhaps the surreal/medieval of a corner of the Company of Wolves set...plus its unusual inhabitants. The sound is of a panic in a large bird aviary, and the sight suggests every bird in its is an exotically plumed tropical. The more nervously cerebral have said that it reminds them of a movie version of a Francis Bacon painting. Jeronimus Bosch, to the less pessimistic viewer.

But I took it from the start as what it was, a gathering of clans for a fun informal night. The "Stately Queens" were as elegantly austere as ever, but not taking themselves too seriously they smiled and joked in character..."Are they really burning Atlanta?" quoth one to me. Feeling as much the Scarlet as she, I declined the feedline and left her to her hunt for a less feminine Ret Butler.

Here too, were nervous first visit Transvestites, insula individualist Gender Benders, garishly coloured and moustachioed gays, some of them from political Drag theatre groups, and the more complete young cabaret club circuit acts in diamonte and gold lamé, fur and feathers evening dresses. Some of these were just hard workers on the road to the top, a few are already celebrated performers, like The Pure Corn Company, rough Drag "lets all scream out tits off" kind of folk, who dye their moustaches bright colours and pose for pics mouths agape in Hollywood parody. Their shows get good reviews for their campy monologues and sketches, a field all its own.

Ziggie Cartier, a tall, elegant mature blonde, experienced of club cabaret and sometimes a



Ziggie Cartier, center

“councillor” to lonely gentlemen and inexperienced TVs, via her contact ad in her role as a Queen of exotic love. Ziggie lately works the piano bars, as a genial hostess and performer. Notably the now very famous Jo Jos Piano Bar. TSs are well represented, and as many of the less notable or notorious ones are just as beautiful. Just as convincingly woman all over. There are some, like Rital, who are on the periphery of fame. Rital is an ex Greek Navy officer, with a very feminine, bubbly disposition. Its often hard to photograph her for the men that cluster admiringly around her. She too, runs and performs in a piano bar.

I have met at Balls in the past, April Ashley, UKs first most famous TS, Tula Cossey our second top celebrity famed as the “James Bond Girl” for her brief walk on part in “For Yours Eyes Only”, -I can forgive her for she is lovely,



Rital, a look-alike for Sophia Loren

but she knocked the glamour out of me when we first met. Also, on the same night, I encountered the late Viki de Lambray, sometimes called TS though nobody knows for sure, nor will they now. Viki was to die a month later, the victim of an overdose of lethal heroine which many say was forced upon her, since she was implicated (as much by her own design) in the controversial Spycatcher Affair. Viki’s claim was, that she would be the most famous Transgenderist ever and die dramatically at the age of thirty. The latter she managed, the former she held for a week, having rung last in desperation not the police, but her press agent to say the now famous words; “I have been killed...”. Borderline in the Drag Queen area are Rebel Rebel, a cabaret mime trio who disdain the Ball gown for modern leather minis, oft of their own design. Hard to choose, but their slender sultry leader,



Rebel, Rebel: a la Bowie.

(centre of picture) known contrastingly as Butch, presents the most glam image. Theirs are regular faces at Balls. One of a similar kind, who has now made the grade was Alana Pellay, who swapped her Drag for Gender Bending in the 70s to join a punk band, Spit Like Paint. That went nowhere in itself, but lead her on to join The Comic Strip, a clique of alternative comedy writers and performers who's hit series of the same name dominated BBC Channel 4 television into the 80s. Now, a post op TS, Alana did the unexpected in starring in her first full length film, Eat the Rich, not as the new woman she is, but playing the part of a man! - 'A challenge for any actress..'

Amber is a Scots born Gender Bender living in London, who opts for full Transformation (unlike most GBs who mix-match unisex) and adds to hormone induced breasts (a'la TS) pierced nipples. He/She was the subject of one of the Sunday Mirrors better features, and adorns the cover of Kris Kirks "Men in Frocks", a book which documents some of the London Drag life.

A new woman now, but not then post op, Lynda Gold is not just known for her page in the same book. Lynda is a vivacious blond Cockney girl with a cute if pugilistic nose, a strong but shapely body and a flair for showing herself off to her best advantage...and why not, indeed?!! So we think, but the police did not. The law says, that in instances of Transgender a woman officer must be present at all times, but the Metropolitan force forgot that detail, and took advantage. An officer got too excited, and let his hands stray when checking her gender out, in a manner against all the rules. Lynda doesn't take any nonsense, and the newspaper reported that it took some six big cops to hold her down and get her into a cell. She claimed that they had tried to rape her, but whatever, no charges were made. I rang Lynda the night she had just had the op, and spoke to her about her plans, while she was still



Amber, in leather and nipple rings.



Lynda Gold, in competition.

groggy from the anesthetic. Maybe the quiet life with her boyfriend, she said. She may have made it there by now, but before she vanished off the scene her new womanhood had one more outing in the press and police station. En route to a kissogram assignment in nothing but a fur coat, some cops wolf whistled her, and, quote: "I spied a handsome sargeant, so I gave him a kiss..." While locked in the embrace and enjoying it, an officer whispered to the sargeant "the lady used to be a man" ... then the fur and feathers flew again!!

A quieter celebrity is Martine Rose, a TV from Midlands famed for her parties. She comes up with unusual costumes every time and is often a winner in the parade, in this predominately gay venue.

Anne Downes, another TV, is a lifer...she lives permanently in her female role while being

hetero, and without drug or surgery of any kind. Yet she is a happy, relaxed and attractive woman as the picture shows. Anne's story was told on the BBC television programme *Phantom Ladies*, which featured three members of UKs Beaumont Society. She lives quietly in Portsmouth where she runs an antique shop, having been caught out Transforming in a car while an officer in the British Navy, forced through electric shock aversion therapy, eventually dismissed from the service and divorced from her wife. Anne is one of our quiet heroines of our gender.

Towards the end of the evening, as the live band followed by disco trails off, the well used catwalk, in four wooden segments is laid out, and there is a mad dash for number cards for all those participating in the parade. Celebrities too dash, some to the stage having already agreed to



Martine Rose, in a smashing red leather mini



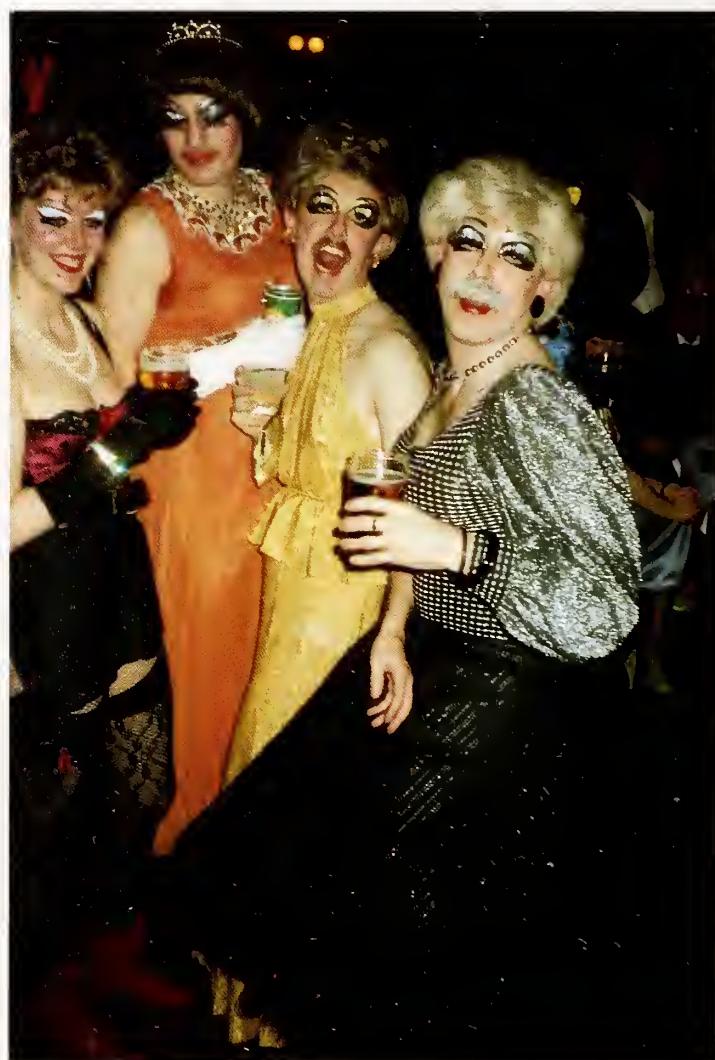
Anne Downes, blonde on the left.

judge, others to the bar to hide from Dennis (Gilding) the Balls host and director. Dennis is an affable, lovable middle aged gay and act agent, who will press into service as many "names" as he can, and is very proud that Boy George once visited the Ball, and that Marylyn, his GB star contemporary, once won the Miss Drag International annual award when still an also-ran nobody.

The competition is always a farce, the order dealt with wrongly, and nobody takes it at all seriously. Both gents and ladys' toilets are crammed with people chatting (away from the musics blare) and making up, but never a tear is seen, even after the annual competition at New Year. Its a fun, almost family affair, and as many ordinary heteros with wives or girlfriends, as "straight gays" are among the crowd, and in whatever toilet confusing the issue.

Mostly, we laughed at the poor celebrity's, frantically trying to make some sense of the order, as some stoned Drag Queen and her assistant announced everyone backwards of the advised order. Of the faces to be seen in the picture, only one may mean anything to you, - The Stretham Madam Sin, as Cynthia Payne is known, on who's life the film Personal Services is based. Her head is up where others are down, busy over marking points...because she has judged many a Ball (and not just Drag ones, either!)

Ah! but this was all last seen more than a year ago. - There were two main Balls at The Porchester; The Dennis Gilding and the Ronata Storm, the latter being a well known Drag Queen. Ronie as we call her, moved hers to another venue, the Tudor Lodge, but Dennis stayed and took in the refugees, when police



"Pure Corn", gender bending at its best

crackdowns closed several hetero S&M clubs.

Suddenly the fun themes like Halloween, Hollywood and Films started to go, replaced by "Kinky leather" this and "Perverted Rubber" that. The S&M took over, until even the Miss Drag International competition was scrapped...instead, "dominants" (weekend minorities, unlike us) performed buggy races across the stage, whipping their submissive "horses" in overtly fetishistic undress. Few Trans and even fewer Drag Queens bothered to come, and the last Ball was an open target for the cops, brim full of undercover "pretty policemen" as they are known.

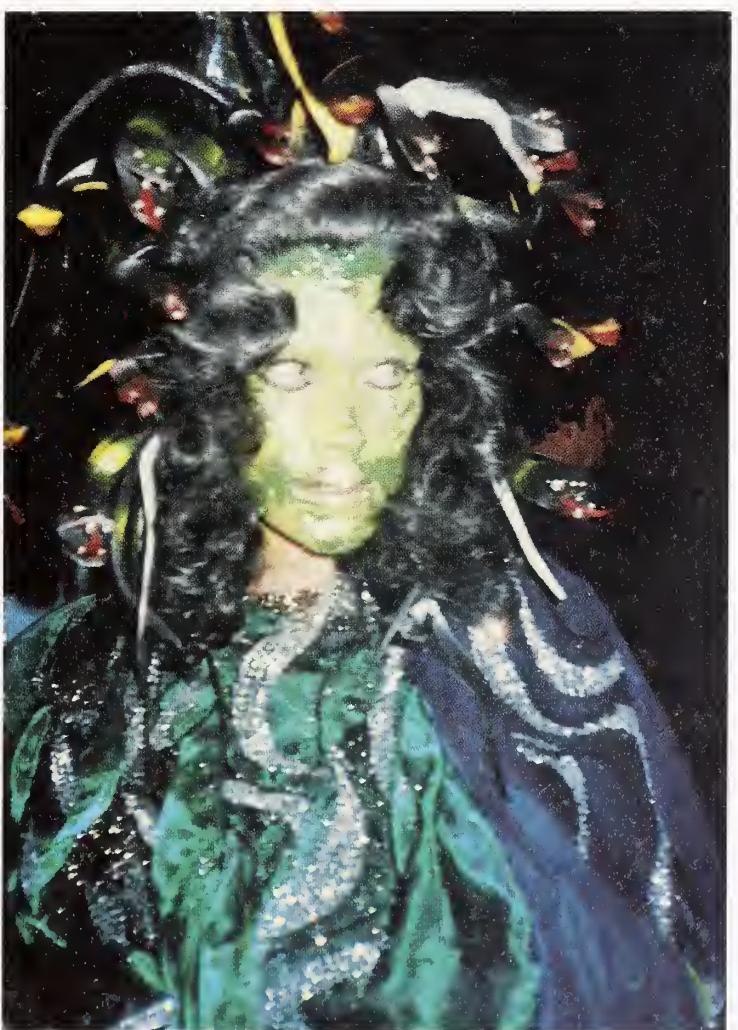
Inevitably, someone was caught naked in one of the Halls many smaller rooms and the whole event closed...forever.

The Hall remains, as it houses a swimming baths, sauna, skating rink and several other venue rooms. I recall seeing children with skates come to the wrong door and stare in amazement, and once was myself misdirected through a wrong door, when wearing a red lycra catsuit, red hair, five inch heel thigh boots and a whip...I entered to find a wedding reception going on, at which all but one guest was deaf and dumb! Surprisingly, I was well received and considered an omen of good luck for the bride and groom. But no more will the building echo to the gaiety of Transworld.

The good news arrived in early '88. Announcing the Miss Drag International, back from the grave of obscurity...no longer at the cosy, well loved crumbling Porchester Hall, but now at the glitz modern Stringfellows, the place to be "seen" that anybody in London glitterati who thinks they are anybody goes to. But where those who ARE, don't. Stringfellows is all chrome and laser and sports three toilets; men, women and Transsexuals...few of whom use that one. It's back, our event, but can it ever be quite the same!?



Another cabaret troupe like "Rebel, Rebel"



A Hallowe'en Medusa



PHAE德拉·凯利

PROFILE

NAME: Phaedra Kelly

AGE: As timeless as any Androgyn, but somewhere around 34.

PROFESSION: Writer, scientist, artist, GT

RESIDENCE: Isle of Wight, U.K.

BIRTH PLACE: Poole Dorset, U.K.

BIRTH SIGN: Leo, Year of the Snake

HEIGHT: 6'1", higher in heels

WEIGHT: 12 1/2 stone

MEASUREMENTS: Too varied to compute.

SHOE SIZE: 8, 9, some 11 -- in U.K. sizes

FAVORITE PERFUME: I make my own.

FAVORITE MOVIE: None in particular.

FAVORITE MUSIC: Anything imaginative and unusual. Eno, Byrne, Bowie, aboriginal didgeredo or Scots bagpipes.

FASHION STYLES: Couldn't care less.

GTs lead fashion not follow it. I design my own clothes, but would as soon be naked and happy.

FAVORITE PLACE: the Sea, to which I will soonest return, anywhere I have not yet been, quiet places, where I am now.

Phaedra Kelly is the founder of the Gender Transient Affinity and publisher of CHRYsalis, a non-commercial magazine for the gender community. She is a well known figure in England and around the world. LadyLike welcomes Phaedra to these pages. See her article on the Porchester Ball elsewhere in this issue.

LadyLike: You do not consider yourself a TV or a TS, but a GT. Would you define that for our readers?

Phaedra Kelly: What is a GT? I've written two books trying to answer that question and I'm not sure I have it covered yet. I let the narrative speak for itself these days, but mostly the pattern



is a person who never really wanted to be a man or a woman, but had their heart set on being a good Androgyn (i.e. a good person). We see ourselves as inheriting our origins as a Third Gender, not as a sexuality. We use what's good of now, what's good of the past and aim for the future. GTs share some similarity of thought with TV, TS, Drag Queens, Gender Benders, etc....we are the Total Transformer.

LL: I am intrigued by your statement that you make your own perfume.

PK: One of my hobbies is collecting rare and ancient perfume recipes. My own favorite is pre-Claudian (Roman) invasion and dates from



Celtic trading in Cornwall, with the Phoenicians. It was used in Druidic ceremonies. It is made from a secret recipe from subtle blends of seven essential oils, mineral waters and pure alcohol. It would cost a little more than Chanel No.5, but is cheaper if homemade. It has no name. If used in small amounts near the period of the full moon, it will attract anything human of any gender. What one does with ones catch is ones own affair... I usually throw them back.

LL: Unlike most of us who feel a compulsion to crossdress and have been doing so from an early age, you came to this late. Can you explain why you chose to become a "transformer" (i.e. crossdress)?

PK: There is no timelock on being a Tran, and no big hurry. Too many interlock themselves and hamper their progress in rushing to be like the beautiful celebrity TSs, It's the pitfall of Androgyny Envy; the same one non-trans suffer, except that we usually handle it marginally better by

becoming it, although this doesn't mean we are immune to the envy.

Confessing to envies and asking questions to help oneself and others is a start to easing some of the pain of it. I went through the same brief flirtation with gender-related fetish at puberty, that I have since discovered all men, who are true to themselves, endured; not all of them becoming Tran. Too many let it haunt their adult life and become latent or true homosexuals. I was also raped and sexually molested by both a male and a female at an early age, which I only told my family about a few years ago. It's the penalty for looking androgynous. But, it was two effeminate Drag Queens and a methanol drinking ex-Oxford Don who set me straight again. That's a long, long story itself.

I reached my return to Transformations from all three levels. My mind wanted and needed its adventure, testing myself to the limit in an alien



environment. My spirit, as a warrior Shaman, was deflected from completion until I had undergone the other Shamanic path, that of androgyny. My body was good enough, and I was not going to let it wait any longer. The seeming increase in Trans in the world may be due to better communication (i.e. more of us talk to each other), but I feel it is a call by nature and conscience to restore the balance which has been upset by men's machismo and women's feminchismo in the overcompensating sexwar. I figure I just joined my tribe in its migratory swim upstream.

LL: When you decided to marry, it was you who wore the wedding dress and your spouse (a GG) wore the tuxedo. It caused quite an uproar. Tell us about that experience.

PK: To both of us, it was a religious observance, to marry the polarity of gender of us both as much as the physical body, before the Mother/Father God, and thus feel married. Nothing



more. I still can't understand the fetish for wedding dresses. It was a good experience, however, and my local tribe of skinheads and punks, my several adopted relatives (Asian, Chinese, & English), and most of my family were there. Vanda's (her spouse) friends came, but only part of her kin so much as sent a card. It was beyond their comprehension, mostly.

The full story would take two issues of your splendid magazine, but I will pick one experience from the few bad ones. Showing the wedding pix around to friends, most people's first reaction was to giggle. Realistically it shouldn't hurt me, especially since they went on to, as usual in such cases, coo over how 'lovely' I and Vanda looked. But to me they were normal, conventional wedding pix.. So, I recall brief little stings of confusion at their first reaction. I would like, just once, to meet someone honest enough to believe what they see...but I suspect that meeting could only be with an alien to this planet.

LL: You are very, very open about your “transformation”, to the point where you, as Phaedra, had an art exhibit which included photos of Phaedra, among other items. Has your openness had any positive effects? Any negative effects?

PK: I have not lived my Androgyny with built-in obsolescence. On the positive side, I can stand up for myself, and for my sisters. I can do my civic duty wherever and whatever I am at the time, unafraid of reprisal or exposure. I cannot be blackmailed (and would not be in any case). I walk where and when I please among non-Tran people. I have earned some respect, even some understanding from others and have learned one Heaven of a lot about humanity’s behavior, ideas and future, from it all. I wouldn’t say that sometimes being treated as an alien is all bad, in that like the sociobiologist, it gives one an abstracted perspective on which to build conclusions.

On the negative side, all too often, one loses



the right to an opinion. This has nothing to do with men’s machismo toward women. Women, too, deny the Tran a right of voice, as do some Gays and all other groups outside of Androgyny. They fear the clarity of the subject, since clarity can be a seditious thing. In the example you chose, my Transconscious Art exhibition, I was set-up, by a gay alternative prude who believed that art must shock to be good. I was locked in helpless silence between him and a real prude on the local council. Hence, my exhibit was “raided” by the police. But, fortunately, the local press and radio allowed me to voice myself, where I could not with the other two factions, and with coolheadedness, I was able to deflect the hassles. It is hard to get a solid, unbiased and balanced third opinion over to the world. If it were just weak knee’d liberalism, it would be alternative prudery. This is more than that; it dares a conclusion and a course of action.



LL: You publish a wonderful, non-commercial magazine called, Chrysalis. What is the purpose and philosophy behind Chrysalis?

PK: Life...energy and life. Communication, free expression, active work in the study and debate of our subject in all its aspects. Androgyny touches all and is touched by all. It's an outlet for our arts, sciences, and philosophy. It's principally an information magazine. The core of my editorial intent is a literal reflection of its first advertising posters in which a young TS model is doing an assignment on a tall building. The owner discovers her 'secret' and has her thrown off the top of the building. Unflustered, she goes into a parachute stable position, freefalling, grabs a cordless phone on the way down from an open window, calls round her contacts and manages to get a HUGE trampoline set under her. On the rebound, she grabs an experimental rocket pack thrown to her by a friend, flies back

up to the top, while arranging for film rights and media coverage, and has the scoundrel arrested. And how does this wondergirl keep so well informed and connected? The secret is found in her shoulder bag, hanging on a flagpole - a copy of Chrysalis inside.

LL: You have obviously drawn from your parachuting and freefall experiences.

PK: After a parachute jump in aid of a charity, I formed the Gender Transient Affinity Adventure Sport Squad, a.k.a. ParaTrans, so one could at least learn the freefall position, in case it should be needed. Two of us have jumped so far.

LL: I know that you correspond with many people around the world. Is the GT/TV/TS community pretty much the same everywhere? Are there any significant differences?

PK: Differences occur because of different national frames of reference. Some countries, like Japan, have enjoyed an openness and tradi-



tion, a history of preserved Androgyny, for centuries. I find that in troubled countries, like S. Africa, N. Ireland, etc., Gender Transience is needed and willingly clung to. I think England's main problem, presently, is it has too few problems... too little chaos for order to take hold. But, elsewhere, they have realized the more chaos, the still more chaos, to paraphrase Lao Tsu. So they are taking hold of their own destiny. Since Chrysalis, there's been a marked increase in the number of U.K. GTs, since we do attract those who are round pegs in square holes (even though the peg board is not the usual one). We are mavericks within a maverick society. It's not that we are so strange so much as that TVs and TSs have become far too predictable and believe the lies of non-Tran science and society. We don't and won't settle for that. We are no longer going to be put on the social scientist's microscope slide of theory; instead, we turn it around the other way and study them, as well as ourselves. But, due to all the differences, which is good since what one cannot do the other can, our collective noun is an Affinity of GTs. Not a fee paying group or organization, but a collective of like minded individuals agreed upon a certain future of true equality. Human equality. And, not confusing balance with symmetry.

LL: I'd like to thank you for this interview and sharing with us your views of the world and gender transience. Is there one last comment you'd like to make?

PK: I hope I have not ranted policy and politics too much. I do enjoy life, and the more for it being lived twice over. But, GTs get a lot of their kicks from the mind and soul as well...yet if you saw us at a drag ball, dancing like wild tribeswomen, usually dressed in something like a micro-sari and thighboots, and hardly talking at all unless it be in flippant Monty Python style, you would think we were a completely different species to that which we really are. Fun is fun. All things in life are serious, but nothing is too serious. Love & Peace, Phaedra.





A More Glamorous You



By Paula Sinclair

The mini is dead; long live the mini. That bit of linguistic nonsense just about sums up the current state of hemlines. If you are confused, don't feel alone. But before I tell you exactly how long your skirts absolutely must be next season, let me first tell you some history.

Over a year ago designers ushered in the return of hemlines well above the knee, pairing them with dark or opaque hose and nice pumps. It was a fresh, new look for the Fall '87 collection. Then came the Spring '88 collections. Designers went crazy and hemlines went out of sight. Women reacted in one of two ways—either they had their knees suctioned or they stayed out of the stores. Because more did the latter than the former, sales slumped, retailers panicked, designers were driven back to their drawing boards, and the fashion press—always eager to spot a trend, or invent one—proclaimed that the mini was dead.

This whole business once again proves two principles about fashion. The first is that fashion, being "of the moment," changes with shocking and sometimes embarrassing suddenness. The second is that you can't believe everything you read in the newspaper or even in *Vogue*. Short skirts are not

really "out" because they were never really "in."

What was in, and still is, is the freedom to choose the skirt length that is most flattering to you. If you actually have the legs, thighs and hips of a runway model, you can wear the shortest skirt well. But if the quality of your legs decreases in direct proportion to the distance from the floor, you can wear above-the-knee, mid-knee or even calf-length skirts and still be fashionable. And if you just can't make up your mind you are in good company. Even Chanel and Lagerfeld have fall skirts in different lengths.



Shoulder pads. Second only to hemlines in making women's fashion the confusing game that it is. How many seasons ago was it that the "strong shoulder" look was seen as empowering women in the workplace and on the street, enabling them to compete with men at least in terms of silhouette. Remember the jokes about exaggerated shoulder pads making women look like linebackers. And finally, remember when the headlines said shoulder pads were out?

If you have been shopping for a suit, jacket or coat recently, you know that shoulder pads are still with us. And as far as crossdressers are concerned, it's a darned good thing.

Designers put shoulder pads in garments because precious few women have shoulders as trim and as taugh as clothes hangers. Because clothes are meant to hang from the shoulder, a little padding smooths out the line and improves the look. The big difference is that now, shoulder pads are thinner, more discrete, less aggressive. Although the range among various designers almost as wide as shoulders were in 1986, no one is showing a truly natural shoulder. Here is the important point for crossdressers:

Many crossdressing men believe that because their shoulders are wider and squarer than women's, they don't need additional padding. Not true. What they generally don't need is as much padding as women are wearing even in this season of smaller

shoulders. But a hint of a padded shoulder can help the crossdressers create a satisfactory illusion. The trick is to use padding to conceal exactly how wide their shoulders are. For example, while a woman may need a half-inch pad that extends well beyond her natural shoulder, a man can get the same look with a quarter-inch pad that is in line with his shoulders. Shoulder pads have an added advantage for men in that they make the waist look thinner.

Here again, the secret is to wear what looks good on you, regardless of what designers are showing.



Lingerie fans, your season is here. With the renewed fashion emphasis on shape and barenness, designers are at last paying attention to bras, teddies, panties and even garter belts.

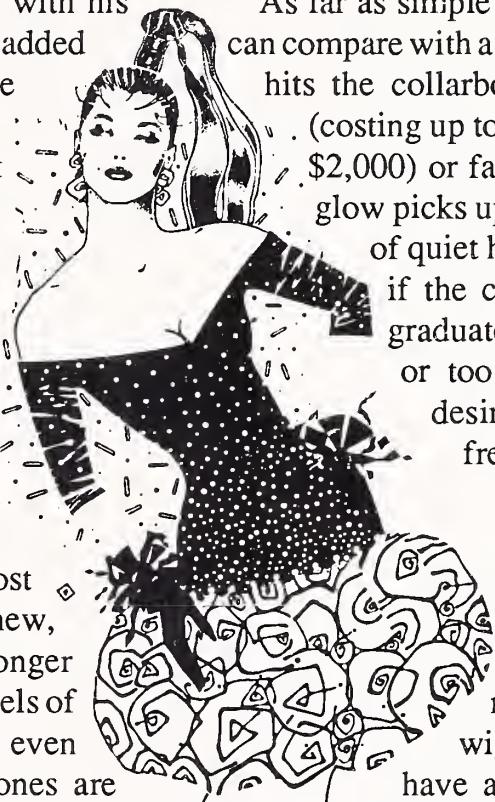
Perhaps bras are receiving the most attention now, partly because of the new, sheer blouses and T-shirts. Bras are no longer "just" underwear. New bras feature panels of black lace, stretch lace, ribbons, and even sequins and seed pearls. The fancy ones are intended to be worn under a blouse by day, and at night peeking out from under a jacket.

But even in this revealing season, some things will stay hidden. That doesn't mean that they have to be dull. *Vogue* says that "not since the Sixties have prints appeared in such profusion" on lingerie. They run the gamut from eye-popping florals to animal patterns and polka dots. Color is big too. For example, Christian Dior paired brilliant colors with black lace.

More big news is that lingerie is also becoming glamourous and enticing in a traditional sense—satin slips Carol Lombard would love, half slips that move and rustle, and boned corselets and bustiers.



Pearls have always been the hallmark of "proper" dressing, and this is certainly the case now that fashion has once again turned away from whimsy and toward the classic look. Women who can



obviously afford a necklace of the most precious gems are choosing a simple double or triple strand of pearls. "Other jewels can be too harsh, but pearls never are" one of these women recently said while trying on a necklace at Caldwell's, an old Philadelphia jeweler.

As far as simple elegance is concerned, nothing can compare with a discrete strand of pearls that just hits the collarbone. Whether they are natural (costing up to \$1 million) cultured (\$1,000 to \$2,000) or fake (as low as \$10), their warm glow picks up the skin tone and adds a string of quiet highlights to frame the face. But if the classic necklace of matched or graduated pearls is too "old fashioned" or too formal, you can still get the desired pearly glow with irregular fresh water pearls.



When it comes to covering gray hair, most crossdressers opt for the most effective method possible; they wear a wig. While this allows them to have almost any haircolor, there are some limits.

Generally, as a person begins to get gray hair, they also develop other signs of aging—wrinkles. Covering gray hair only removes one indication of age. Hair colorists who work in the finest salons agree that as a woman ages, her hair should become progressively lighter to best compliment her facial features. For many people this means moving toward ash blonde. For others who had dark hair in their youth, highlights look best now that they are women of a certain age need highlights in their hair. Here are the highlighting shades most recommended for various "original" hair colors. For a more believable appearance, choose a wig with these colorings:

- Brunette and dark brown—chestnut or subtle gold
- Blonde—golden highlights give a sunny look
- Black—lighter shades where gray occurs naturally, like at the temples. Chestnut is a good choice.

HAIR TODAY . . .

GONE TOMORROW

Was the first time you shaved your legs anything like mine?

Comment / by Veronica Anderson

For a young, beginning cross-dresser, probably the first really definite step we take is to shave our legs. We can dress up, make our first crude attempt at makeup, and experience feelings that are new and tremendously exciting, but as we progress, our first sincere commitment to the "life" is to turn those hairy old legs of ours into smooth, silky columns of femininity just waiting for the soft caress of the sheerest stockings we can find. Sound familiar? Of course it does!

The first time I shaved my legs, and underarms, was at the age of twenty. I was pretty much in this same boat, totally enamored with the thought of dressing and looking like a woman, wanting to exercise that feminine half of me which was just screaming to come out. Those were the days; all innocent and nervous energy. You couldn't keep your skirts flat with a ten ton weight! With typical blind enthusiasm, my first attempt at denuding was a real "Follicle Follies". Of course, at twenty I had been shaving my face for several years and I was accustomed to THAT manly task. Confident and cocky that I had all the experience I needed to turn my legs as smooth as porcelain, I reached for the dainty little lady shaver I'd just bought at the drugstore and stepped into the tub. Well! Do you by any chance remember the shower scene from "Psycho?" Hitchcock had nothing on me, girls! I promptly looked like I'd gone a few rounds with Freddie Krueger from "Nightmare On Elm Street!" You know where I got it; Around the ankle bone, along the shin, behind the knee. Ouch! This is definitely a learned skill! And my underarms! Honestly! Later, while applying deodorant, I considered renaming Ice Blue Secret to Red Hot Needles!

To add insult to injury, I hadn't done a terribly good job of removing hair. Removing skin? That I was an expert at! But removing hair? Well, have you ever seen a photo of a forest that had just been worked over by a logging company? Stumps and stubble was everywhere! So now I was properly sliced and diced, but I still had a five o'clock shadow on my legs that was going on midnight. I could shave my face with nary a nick, smooth as a baby's bottom, but my legs were a war zone.

So what's next? What more could I possibly do to torture my poor, unfortunate gams? That's right. You've got it! A depilatory! I'm a gullible consumer, just like the rest of you. I had visions of the "TV" commercials in my head, where my long luscious legs are being gently rinsed free of the comforting lather, which effortlessly gobble every hint of hair shaft, leaving glistening, million dollar limbs completely free from anything even resembling stubble. Dream on, girls! You can bet your best bloomers that when I innocently spread the rich, creamy concoction over my legs it was no "Neat" feeling, considering what I'd just done with the razor. Oh well, Live and Learn. You might say I was a real "Nair"-Do-Well with a depilatory! I thought I was going to go through the roof! Live and learn? More like live and BURN! Youch! Now, ten years later, I can shave my legs slick and slippery in the blink of a well made-up eye, and the feel of my sheer stockings against them is one of the real treats of femininity, but back then the effort was gigantic and the results catastrophic! I think I would have done better with a weed eater!

Certainly the effort of removing that vestige of masculinity was less than comfortable. I can look back on it with humor now, but the real

shocker hit me just about the same time the stinging stopped. I suddenly realized how severely I had just compromised my masculine self, in favor of my feminine self. Honestly! My God, what about wearing shorts? What about the beach? What about the locker room? My God, what about my girlfriend? What had I done? Weird and mentally deficient excuses came to mind, like "Oh . . . My legs? Well, you see I have this rare disease which makes my body hair fall out?" Or how about, "Yes, I shave my legs. I'm a competitive swimmer, don't you know, and I have to shave my body hair to reduce water resistance." Have you ever heard anything so pathetic? You have? You thought of that one too? Oh well. Needless to say, I was never really compromised. My girlfriend, now my wife, not only understood, but got a kick out of it. The guys in the locker room usually have their own little secrets of one kind or another, and at the beach who gives a damn! The silly excuses were just that, excuses.

For those of you who have been through a like situation, my words are hopefully a humorous hint towards the past. As for anyone out there considering that first step towards a serious crossdressing commitment, like de-furring the form, remember, the smooth ease with which you scrape your face is not the same as mowing the lawn on your lower limbs. Be careful, especially around the ankle and the knee, or you'll be playing out the shower scene from "Psycho" just like I did! Be careful and enjoy!

All the best . . .

Veronica



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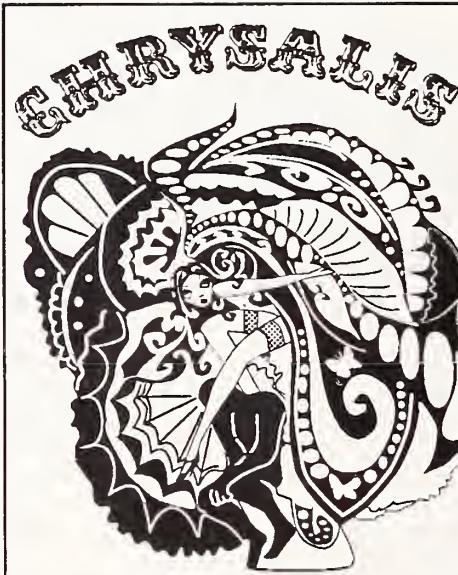


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102

(San Diego) - I have been a TV since my teens, when I discovered the thrill of silks, satins, sheer nylons and spike heels. I enjoy relaxing in sexy lingerie, with a glass of wine and a good book. I like writing about my experiences, both real and imagined. I am a corset devotee, find tight-lacing exciting and have a

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103

(Long Beach, CA) - Crossdresser with ultra-high heel fetish, loves to correspond and exchange photos with all. You will always receive a prompt reply and current photo **(Vicki)**.



104

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105

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(Priscilla)



106

(Louisiana) - Very clean, sexy, she male, wishes to meet or write to other sexy women, TS's and passable TV's. I love everything about being a woman.

(Jayne)



108

(San Jose, CA) - I enjoy the pleasures of becoming an attractive TV and associating with nice people. I wish correspondence friendships with others. I love letters and photos from TV's, TS's and warm-hearted gentleman.

(Rosa)



107

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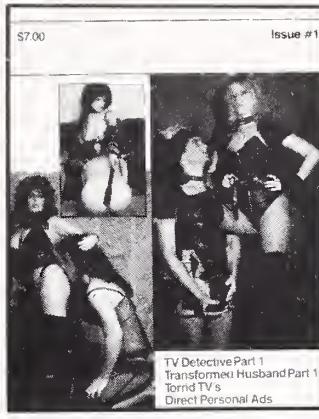
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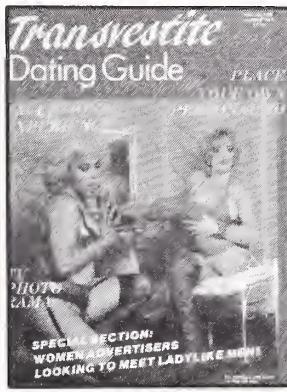
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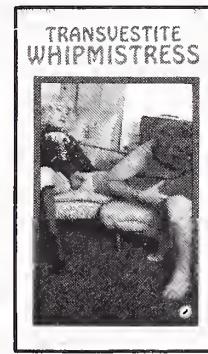
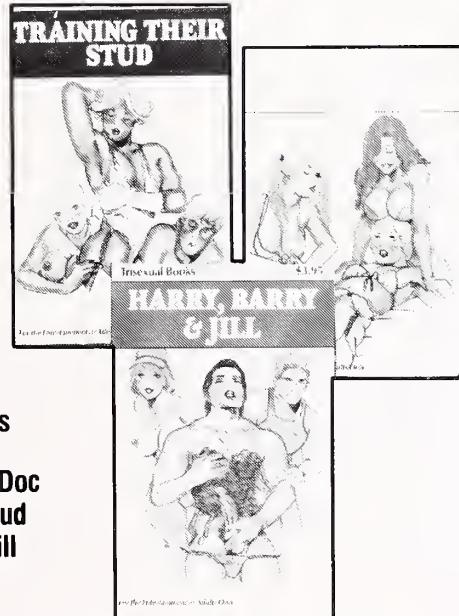
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